CLAIMS:

1. A method of detecting the causative agent of spontaneous abortion comprising the steps of

(a) hybridizing a probe for an AAV polynucleotide to nucleic acids of a sample of abortion material under conditions which allow the formation of a heteroduplex between an AAV nucleic acid and the probe, and

(b) detecting a polynucleotide duplex which contains the probe.

2. The method according to Claim 1, which is a PCR, Southern blotting or an in situ hybridization technique.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein one or more probes are used which are selected from the group consisting of the primers pan1, pan3, nest1 and nest2.

4. A method of detecting the causative agent of spontaneous abortion comprising the steps of

(a) incubating a probe antibody directed to an AAV antigen with a sample of abortion material under conditions which allow the formation of an antigen-antibody complex, and

(b) detecting the antigen-antibody complex containing the probe antibody.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the probe antibody is A1 (DSMACC2195, deposited on 13. 10.1994), A20 (DSM ACC2194, deposited on 13. 10. 1994), A69 (DSM ACC2196, deposited on 13. 10. 1994) and/or B1 (DSM ACC2197, deposited on 13. 10. 1994).

6. Tho method according to Claim 4 or 5, which is an ELISA, a RIA, a FIA or an IFA.

7. A method of detecting the causative agent of spontaneous abortion comprising the steps of

(a) incubating a sample containing AAV or an antigenic part thereof with a sample suspected of containing anti-AAV antibodies under conditions which allow the formation of an antibody-antigen complex, and

(b) detecting the antibody-antigen complex, containing the probe antigen.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the antigenic part of AAV is VP1, VP2 or VP3.

9. The method according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein the antibody in the antibody-antigen complex is of the IgM type.

10. The method according to one of Claim 7 to 9, which is an ELISA, a RIA, a FIA or an IFA.

11. A kit for performing the method according to Claim 1, comprising a probe for an AAV polynucleotide in a suitable container.

12. A kit for performing the method according to Claim 4, comprising a probe antibody directed to an AAV antigen in a suitable container.

13. The kit according to Claim 12, wherein the probe antibody is AI (DSM ACC2195, deposited on 13.10.1994), A20 (DSM ACC2194, deposited an 13.10.1994), A69 (DSM ACC2196, deposited on 13.10.1994 and/or B1 (DSM ACC2197, deposited on 13.10.1994).

14. A kit for performing the method according to Claim 7, comprising AAV or an antigenic part thereof in a suitable container.

15. The kit according to Claim 14, wherein the antigenic part of AAV is VP1, VP2 and/or VP3.

16. Antibody directed to an AAV antigen.

17. Antibody according to Claim 16, wherein the antibody is directed to an AAV capsid or a protein thereof.

18. Antibody according to Claim 17, wherein the antibody is A1 (DSM ACC2195, deposited on 13.10.1994).

19. Antibody according to Claim 17, wherein the antibody is A20 (DSM ACC2194, deposited on 13.10.1994).

20. Antibody according to Claim 17, wherein the antibody is A69 (DSM ACC2196, deposited on 13.10.1994).

21. Antibody according to Claim 17, wherein the antibody is B1 (DSM ACC2197, deposited on 13.10.1994).